

For the past five years, the PI, doing business as Marine Mammal Research Consultants (MMRC), has primarily performed marine mammal research in response to the needs of the US Navy's Marine Mammal Monitoring program. During the past three years alone, MMRC was involved in 13 such naval exercises primarily in Hawaiian waters, but also including the regions of southern California (SOCAL) and Northern Marianas Islands comprising approximately 400 hrs of aerial surveys and 35 hrs of shipboard surveys. These have been and will likely continue to be performed on a contract-by-contract basis, thus it is difficult to say with any assurance how many hours will be performed even within the next six months, let alone the next five years.

However several factors suggest that this demand and MMRC's subsequent involvement will likely continue. The US Navy Atlantic and Pacific commands have elected to consolidate their ESA and MMPA compliance efforts under a recent "indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity" (IDIQ) request for quotes (RFQ) (attached). As can be seen in the IDIQ RFQ, the solicitation covers a broad range of regions ranging from the Northern Marianas Islands, to Glacier Bay, to SOCAL, and Atlantic coasts and solicits quotes for many hours of surveys in each of five years using aerial, shipboard and other platforms. The results of submissions to that RFQ will not be known until early 2010. Once it is determined which biological consulting firm is selected, the next step will be for that firm to select subcontractors that (presumably) have the credentials to perform the specified work. It is safe to say that MMRC is one of very few subcontractors existing that have the experience and personnel necessary to perform this work. In short, the result of the IDIQ process will likely involve aerial (and some shipboard) surveys by MMRC in most and possibly all of the regions requested in this application over the five-year term of the requested permit.